



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Autumn Burke
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2448 – (Burke) –As Amended on April 6, 2016 - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Burke:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2448, which eliminate barriers to high school graduation by CalWORKs welfare-to-work participants.

CalWORKs benefits eligibility for adults is currently limited to 24 months, unless the participants are meeting certain criteria to have their time clock extended. This 24-month time clock continues while participants work towards earning their high school diploma, or its equivalent, which makes it more difficult for these participants to pursue their education. The timing means that these participants have a shortened timeframe to work, participate in career technical education, or participate in other training after receiving their high school diploma or equivalent. A high school diploma is a critical component in helping CalWORKs parents towards self-sufficiency.

It is important to address this barrier because the earnings potential for adults without a high school diploma is significantly lower than for those who have finished high school. Additionally, adults without a high school diploma face higher unemployment rates nationally than those with a high school diploma. AB 2448 would remove this barrier by allowing CalWORKs participants to earn a high school equivalency degree before the 24-month time clock starts. It would also require these CalWORKs students to maintain satisfactory progress towards their high school degree for the clock to remain stopped.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 2448. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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